

JAMS 204-001 spring 2020 course evaluation - 16 respondents

The instructor was effective in teaching the subject matter of this course.

Strongly agree 75%

Agree 19%

Disagree 6%

Strongly disagree 0%

The instructor kept the course organized.

Strongly agree 81%

Agree 19%

Disagree 0%

Strongly disagree 0%

The instructor stimulated my interest in the subject.

Strongly agree 56%

Agree 38%

Disagree 6%

Strongly disagree 0%

Help with the course was available.

Strongly agree 81%

Agree 19%

Disagree 0%

Strongly disagree 0%

I would recommend the instructor to other students.

Strongly agree 81%

Agree 13%

Disagree 6%

Strongly disagree 0%

The goals of the course have been made clear to me.

Strongly agree 56%

Agree 44%

Disagree 0%

Strongly disagree 0%

The course requirements and grading criteria have been made clear to me.

Strongly agree 56%

Agree 31%

Disagree 13%

Strongly disagree 0%

What is the strongest aspect of the instructor's teaching in this course?

Even online, she posted videos of herself teaching and posted all the materials we needed for this class. She was also communicated well with the students.

Jane was always willing to help and responded promptly. She was also willing to take feedback from students and adjust accordingly. For example, when we transitioned online, she had us take a survey on what we felt we needed to know most and she adjusted her curriculum and schedule based on our feedback. She is also very personable and I felt very comfortable in her in-person classes to speak in front of the class. Looking forward to a class with her next semester.

They are strict with the grading style which for most would be a frustration, but it is helping us become better at writing.

The strongest aspect of my instructors teaching was her overall knowledge in the class. She was able to help with any and all questions that I had, as well as kept me interested in the subject matter. Clearly she knew exactly what she was talking about and teaching at all times and I really appreciate having instructors like that.

I would say the strongest aspect of the instructor's teaching was analyzing news stories and beginning to produce audio.

As a student I was aware that Jane was interested in the material herself. It was clear to me that she cared about each of her students learning the material. Some professors feel that their job is just to vomit information and then if the students learn it, good. If not, they do not care. Jane was not like this and instead actually wanted her students to understand not only the material, but why the material worked the way it did.

Office hours where I was able to get practical information.

The strongest aspect of the instructor's teaching was organization. Every week Jean prepared our weekly agenda with headings, bullet points for assignment and examples. This was helpful because the material I needed for the week was presented to me clearly.

The instructor's involvement with the media and having daily discussions about current events was my favorite part of class. It kept me engaged and wanting to discuss what was going on in the world while in a safe environment, due to the nature of everyone wanting to discuss it too. I also appreciated the various links and recommendations to podcasts, news sites, help with classes or technology, and interesting or relevant stories. Another thing I liked was the ability of the instructor to accommodate to students, like having mini crash course on using the ZOOM recorders.

The laid-back nature of some classes helped me feel less intimidated by the workload. Other than that everything was fine, really.

She was available for help, especially when classes were online. The I was having trouble with Audition, she helped me to try to figure it out (I probably would have figured it out if I was smarter).

She made everything in the course clear. She also made sure to be available at all times. This includes when the pandemic hit and the course transferred online.

Good at communicating. Responds to students quickly.

The instructor is very thorough and detail oriented. For example, learning how to use adobe audition.

Definitely the ability to give great, accessible, and understandable feedback.

What could the instructor do to improve their effectiveness?

This instructor could have provided more examples of assignments.

I am a little concerned about the final because it is going to be heavily based on grammar and things we really focused on in the beginning of the semester. For me personally, I need more of that throughout the semester, but with the virus, I understand she had to change everything and that might have just had to be changed.

I don't have much to say when it comes to improvement. They did well with communicating to us during and after class.

I'm not really sure. I feel as though she did everything she needed to do to be effective.

Providing a clear system for reviewing quizzes after submission. Like, maybe opening up the answers after everyone has taken it.

Go deeper into the grammatical side of things in the first part of the course. As well as hitting on writing styles more. I understand that this was not entirely the point of this course, but learning how to be a more effective media writer would have been beneficial in my opinion.

Although the feedback was great for a 200 level college class, it wasn't...harsh enough to make my work publishable. I and (probably) many other students are looking at getting internships soon, so harsher feedback would be appreciated. I'm not sure if it fits this question, but a bit more direction on the assignments would've been nice as well. Being "thrown off in the deep end" is all well and good, but it's a bit overwhelming to have to come up with your own idea for a story then do all of the legwork for it. I'll be doing more than my fair share of this in the coming years, so not having to worry about it right now would really help.

N/A

Nothing.

I think an emphasis on drafting and pushing towards more feedback would be very beneficial. Sometimes I didn't necessarily know what I did wrong.

I would say give students with differing opinions more time to talk during discussions. An example of this was when Jane brought up Kobe Bryan sexual assault charges shortly after his death, causing her to put on suspension. The general consensus was "she had no business doing something that nasty." I tried to bring up the fact that she had in fact, despite it being in bad taste, not violated any codes at all, and was touching on a real subject that happened. When I tried bringing it up, I was more or less interrupted and drowned out. I think we lost an opportunity to have an open, intellectual discussion. Free speech is already under attack at American universities, I just don't want to see this trend continue. Learning requires mental discomfort, don't shy away from that.

Jane has proven to be an effective instructor for this course. I wouldn't change anything in her effectiveness.

Consistent grading.

NA

Covering (yes, I said it) more grammar.

Under the circumstances, did the online portion of the class work for you? Why or why not?

The online portion did work, but I had a lot of technical issues with the software I was required to use and the technology for the class (a Zoom recorder and Adobe Audition).

Yes, I am a little sad we couldn't do more audio, but I think 204 was still effective for me online.

I struggled in general when it came to all the classes moving online. I missed the social aspects of the class. When moving online I began to procrastinate and began to lose interest in many of my classes.

Yes, it was not ideal obviously but it still worked out for me. I think I was still able to gain a decent amount of knowledge because Jane did an excellent job of keeping us motivated and interested.

I would say it was as successful as it could have been. This whole situation was more or less sprung onto everyone and sent us all scrambling to figure everything out *on the fly*.

Yes. I was able to access adobe audition which was great. Finding interviews and interview subjects was made much more difficult however.

It worked well enough. I'm not a fan of listening to audio tapes or reading PDFs, but I was still able to complete the class and produce some work that I'm proud of, more or less.

Yes, the online portion worked even though it was a little challenging at times, Jean was helpful.

The online portion of the class was workable under the circumstances. I was unable to complete many assignments because of circumstances unrelated but if I had been able to the work and effort to communicate to students was very thorough.

Eh, not really. I honestly felt a lot less motivation to get stuff done. That just goes for every class I've taken this semester though.

Not really, a lot of tutorials requires to understand Adobe audition require some hands-on experience.

I think the online portion worked. I was lucky enough to have Adobe Audition on my computer. I still believe in person is the best way to learn the course. In person interactions with the instructor can help you get a better understanding of the course.

Yes. Jane adjusted her curriculum to make sure we still learned in an effective manner.

Yes! I liked both the online and in-class portions of the course but missed my peers.

It did, I take at least one online class every semester and that helped prepare me. I also paid close attention to class when in person as well which helped.

If the class must be taught online again in fall, what can the instructor do to make it better?

The instructor could give more coaching on using the software and technology.

I liked the in-person zoom meet we did at the end. I think a once a week in-person meeting would be very effective. Maybe in exchange a little less homework because those might take more time, just considering from a student perspective of having 15-18 credits it is still hard to keep up sometimes. I found it took me way longer in an online format than in person. Overall, I really liked this class both in-person and online! Thanks!

Video calls I think can help when teaching. I felt lost when we began going online.

Possibly do more entire class meetings on zoom/Microsoft teams, I think it was nice having everyone together talking like that rather than just in discussion posts.

Since many are not afforded the same privileges as myself in having reliable internet access or a computer that can support audition. I would suggest keeping the course writing oriented. I liked the assignments where we were given the reporter's notes and had to craft a story from it. I also liked the in class work where we watched a video of a press conference and had to come up with the news worthy information from it. I think those would be perfect for this class online.

Focus less on the audio, and the storytelling aspects of the course. Instead I would focus the course much more on the grammatical sides of things. On top of that, I would make the systems of writing a higher priority. Teaching students how to be effective and strong writers.

Mandatory or optional meetings over Skype/Zoom would really help. During the first few months of the class, it seemed like in-person discussion was a very big part of what the class was about. Forum posts are pretty much useless for replicating this, and all my other classes had success in meeting once a week just to allow everyone to talk.

N/A

Nothing.

Definitely put an emphasis on online classes. For myself at least, I learn better in a class type of environment rather than sheets of instructions being thrown at me. Of course, this whole situation was completely thrown at us, so what was really supposed to happen.

Cancel it. Just cancel the class. The amount of bullshit that online classes have put us through is infuriating. Just wait until it's safe to have in-person classes again.

As long as the instructor can stay in contact with each student in some capacity, then the course would be taught well. For the Faces of UWM project, it might be hard to get audio from a student. I just hope that students will be able to use the Zoom kits and some sort of audio editing software to complete the broadcasting portion of the course.

Zoom calls.

This was one of my most organized classes online.

I actually would've appreciated more instruction from the instructor, although we received a lot, about how to do each week's tasks. I know they were shortened for clarity and obvious to cater to schedules, but I loved our in-class lectures.

Have clearer instructions for some of the audio editing off the bat, there were clearer instructions that were put out, but that was after students had a few issues.